

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 5-20 and 22-24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 22 are amended and claim 21 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter); and/or (3) place the application in better form for appeal (if necessary). Entry is thus requested.

Applicant sincerely acknowledges the Office Action's indication that claims 7-24 define patentable subject matter. However, for at least the reason set forth below Applicant respectfully submits all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,946,622 to Bojerd, U.S. Patent No. 5,999,816 to Tiedemann Jr. et al. (hereinafter Tiedemann) and U.S. Patent No. 5,603,096 to Gilhousen et al. (hereinafter Gilhousen). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that subject matter indicated to be allowable is incorporated into claim 1. For at least that reason, Applicant respectfully submits claim 1

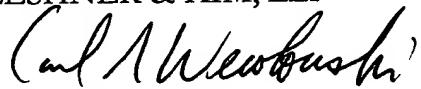
defines patentable subject matter. Claims 5-6 depend from claim 1 and therefore also define patentable subject matter for at least that reason as well as their additionally recited features. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 5-6 under §103 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Carl R. Wesolowski**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP



Carl R. Wesolowski
Registration No. 40,372

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
703 766-3701 DYK/CRW:vrj

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Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610